

AMENDED CLAIMS

[Received by the International Bureau on 23 August 2005 (23.08.2005):
original claims 5 and 6 are unchanged ; original claims 1 and 4 are amended ; claims 7-
14 and 16 have been added ; original claims 7 and 8-13 are renumbered as claims 15 and
17-21 ; original claims 2, 3, 20 and 21 are cancelled.]

1 (Amended) . A humidity conditioner having a configuration
in which one or more water-soluble polymers are introduced into
5 a three-dimensional framework that is formed by one or more
crosslinked water-absorbing polymers, wherein

the water-absorbing polymers include either polyacrylate
salt or one or more polyacrylate salt-polyvinyl alcohol
copolymers, and

10 the water-soluble polymers are composed of one or both of
polyvinyl alcohol and polyisopropylacrylamide.

2 (Deleted) .

15 3 (Deleted) .

4 (Amended) . The humidity conditioner of Claim 1, wherein
the polyvinyl alcohol has a molecular weight in a range
of no less than 500 but no more than 20000,

20 the polyisopropylacrylamide has a molecular weight in
a range of no less than 1000 but no more than 30000, and

an amount of the water-soluble polymers introduced into
the water-absorbing polymers is in a range of no less than 1%
of a total mass of the humidity conditioner but no more than
25 30% of the total mass.

5. The humidity conditioner of Claim 1, wherein
the water-absorbing polymers have a crosslinking ratio
in a range of no less than 0.5% but no more than 5%.

5 6. A humidity-conditioning sheet having a configuration in
which the humidity conditioner of Claim 1 is encased with one
or more water-permeable sheet members.

7(Added). The humidity conditioner of Claim 1, wherein
10 the polyvinyl alcohol is partially saponified, with no
less than 900 and no more than 1100 monomer units being
saponified.

8(Added). The humidity conditioner of Claim 1, wherein
15 the polyvinyl alcohol (i) has an average degree of
polymerization of 1000 and is partially saponified with no less
than 900 and no more than 1100 monomer units being saponified,
or (ii) has an average degree of polymerization of 500.

20 9(Added). The humidity conditioner of Claim 1 to be set in
one selected from the group consisting of clothing, hats, and
helmets.

10(Added). The humidity conditioner of Claim 9, wherein
the clothing is a fatigue jacket, and
the humidity conditioner is a humidity-conditioning sheet
encased with one or more water-permeable sheet members, and is
5 to be set in the fatigue jacket with a hook and loop fastener
in a detachable manner.

11(Added). The humidity conditioner of Claim 1 to be set in
a building material.

12(Added). The humidity conditioner of Claim 11, wherein
the building material is a humidity-conditioning glass in
which a humidity-conditioning layer having the water-soluble
polymers encased with a water-permeable resin film is set on
5 a surface of a glass, the water-soluble polymers being composed
of the polyisopropylacrylamide.

13(Added). The humidity conditioner of Claim 11, wherein
the building material is a humidity-conditioning tatami
10 mat in which a humidity-conditioning sheet having the humidity
conditioner encased with one or more water-permeable sheet
members is set between a mat surface and an inside padding.

14(Added). The humidity conditioner of Claim 11, wherein
15 the building material is a wooden building material inside
of which the humidity conditioner is filled.

15(Amended). A humidity conditioning method using a
humidity conditioner that has a configuration in which polyvinyl
20 alcohol is introduced into a three-dimensional framework
composed of one or more water-absorbing polymers, comprising
the following steps:

having the humidity conditioner absorb water; and
adjusting a water discharge with an osmotic pressure
25 gradient established by adding a sodium chloride solution having
a concentration of no less than 0.01 M but no more than 3 M to
the water-absorbed humidity conditioner.

16(Added). The humidity conditioning method of Claim 15,
wherein

the sodium chloride solution is added so that a weight
ratio of sodium chloride to the introduced polyvinyl alcohol
is substantially 1:1.

17(Amended). The humidity conditioning method of Claim 15,
wherein

the water-absorbing polymers are composed of either
sodium polyacrylate or one or more sodium
polyacrylate-polyvinyl alcohol copolymers.

18(Amended). A humidity conditioning method using a
humidity conditioner that has a configuration in which one or
more water-soluble polymers composed of polyvinyl alcohol are
introduced into a three-dimensional framework composed of one
or more water-absorbing polymers, comprising the following
steps:

having the humidity conditioner absorb water; and
adjusting a water discharge by causing the water-soluble
polymers to swell with the water entered into the framework to
thereby discharge the absorbed water to an outside of the
framework.

19(Amended). The humidity conditioning method of Claim 18,
wherein

the water-absorbing polymers are composed of either

sodium polyacrylate or one or more sodium
polyacrylate-polyvinyl alcohol copolymers.

20 (Delete) .

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21 (Delete) .